Approval of Metropolitan Track Project

1605. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metropolitan Track Project of Central Railway is pending with Government for final approval; and

(b) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) A proposal for laying 5th and 6th lines from Kurla to Bhandup (phase I of Kurla-Thane project) was approved in December 95 in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. The estimate has already been sanctioned and the work has been taken up. The phase II of the proposal of laying 5th and 6th lines from Bhandup to Thane has been received from Central Railway and the same is under examination.

(b) The decision on this proposal will be taken after examination of all aspects in due course.

External funding for improvement of conditions of Women

1606. DR. D VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for external funding from European Community was sent on 7th September, 1994 to Government to improve the economic and social conditions of women in 10 districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the above proposal is pending with Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when Government are likely to clear the project; and

(e) whether under the proposal the project was to start in 1995 and its duration was 7 years and Rs. 130.29 crores was proposed as external assistance and Rs. 40 crores as Government's contribution?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Integrated Watershed Development Project in Gujarat

1607. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture Development oriented Integrated Watershed Development Project is under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target of the project was fixed when it was launched in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the targets have been achieved according to the time table; and

(f) if not, the action Government propose to take to achieve the targets of the project in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains) is being implemented in Gujarat with financial assistance of the World Bank for a period of seven years i.e. from 28.2.91 to 30.9.97 (credit closing date 31.3.98). The project aims to slow down the process of ecological degradation, by promoting sustainable and replicable agriculture production systems through development of cost effective technologies with particular emphasis on vegetative soil and moisture conservation measures on a watershed basis.

(c) to (e) Under the project, 103849 ha area in 4 watershed (viz. Vatrak, Machchhu-Asoi, Bhadar-Sakario and Narmada Direct) was targetted for treatment with an overall project cost of Rs. 49.71 crores. Against this target, so far 91925 ha has been treated with various programme measures in an integrated manner by incurring a cummulative expenditure of Rs. 38.14 crores. During 1996-97, State Govt. proposes to treat about 33,000 has with financial involvement of about Rs. 13.46 crores.

(f) Question does not arise.